Tourism Development in Maharashtra

990. SHRI NARESH C. PUGLIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign and domestic tourists who visited tourist spots in Maharashtra during 1990-91 upto the 30th June, 1991;

(b) the steps being taken to develop tourist spots to promote tourist traffic in this State;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Ajanta and Ellora are among the 13 sites recognised by the UNESCO as World Heritage Sites;

(d) whether Government are aware that as compared to other tourist attraction centres in India, only half of the foreign tourists visit Ellora and Ajanta every year;

(e) if so, what are the reason therefor; and

(f) what is the total amount given by the Central Government to Maharashtra for the tourism development programmes in the State during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) The Relevant statistics are not available from the State Government.

(b) The development of tourist spots to promote tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Government.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) No comparison is possible in the absence of reliable statistics.

(f) The Central Government sanctioned Rs. 8.3 lakhs and Rs. 142.61 lakhs for tourism development programmes in Maharashtra during 1989-90 and 1990-91 respectively.

Setting up of Local Power Generators in the Country

991. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to encourage local power generators with low capacity to cater to the needs of local areas throughout the country.

(b) if so, what is the stage of this proposal; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in negative what steps are taken by Government to augment power supply in the country and to minimise the hazards of power failure and load shedding?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) The electricity systems of generation and distribution are organised on the basis of integrated grids covering each State and State grids further integrated into regional grids with the country being covered by five regions. Apart from having large hydel, thermal and nuclear generating stations, the State governments are also taking steps to utilise available generating possibilities by mini and micro hydel stations and wind farms. Electricity generated from these small generating units are also fed into grids and distributed throughout the State. In establishing generation facilities both the availability of suitable sites near the load centres as well as the natural endowment of hydel and coal deposits are taken into account.

The Working Group on Power had recommended a capacity addition programme of 38369 MW which covers installation of low, medium and large capacity generating units for meeting the power requirements of various States|UTs.

Supply of Coal to thermal power Stations

992. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total requirement of coal for thermal power plants in the country;

(b) whether the supply of coal is keeping pace with the demand; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to supply required quantity of coal, regularly to all Thermal power plants in the country so that continued power generation is not affected?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDAR): (a) The total requirement of coal for thermal power stations for the year 1991-92 as projected by the Department of Power is 146 million tonnes (139 million tonnes for power generation and 7 million tonnes for building up stocks). This is 23.7 per cent higher than the actual supplies of approx. 118 million tonnes during 1990-91.

(b) According to provisional data made available by Coal Companies, thermal power stations received 31.67 million tonnes of coal from 1.4.91 to 30.6.91 which is 9.6 per cent higher than the quantity received during the same period last year.

(c) The Ministry of Coal is taking following steps to improve supply of coal to thermal power stations:

(i) Production of coal by coal companies is being monitored on daily basis and efforts are being made to further increase the production;

(ii) Efforts are being made to step up despatch of coal to the thermal power stations by increasing rail loading and ensuring maximum supply through other means like road, convey or belt etc.

Use of Vegetable Oils in Diesel Engines

993. DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:

Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Scientists at IIT, Madras, have, after a study sponsored by the Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources, indicated the possibility of using pure vegetable oils in diesel engines;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government propose to exploit these possibilities.

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) to (c) In order to explore the possibility of utilising non-edible oils as an alternative fuel to diesel for use in internal combustion engines, Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources has sponsored a project at IIT, Madras, The project work is in progress, and the possibility of using non-edible oils in diesel engines will depend on the results of the study.

टिहरी पन-बिजली परियोजना की लागत और निर्माण अवधि में वृद्धि

994. श्री अनन्त राम जायसवाल : क्या विद्युत और गैर-पारम्परिक ऊर्जा स्रोत मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) आरम्भ में टिहरी पन-बिजली परियोजना की अनुमानित लागत कितनी